

November 7, 1958

Dr. Richard T. Smith
5323 Harry Hines Blvd.
Dallas, Texas

Dear Dr. Smith;

Your paper in the August number of the Journal of Experimental Medicine has just come to my attention. I should have read it sooner but for a number of distractions during the last month since my return from a trip to Europe.

I think you can judge how delighted I was to see your results in the light of the enclosed speculation. In discussing this problem with a number of my colleagues, I have been rather hard put to justify in detail the contention that persistence of antigen was necessary for the maintenance of tolerance and here you have done it beautifully! I will be rather interested in your comments as to whether the proposal in the enclosure meets the requirements of the last sentence in your paper on page 247. I might comment that the revised proposal was based on a theoretical dissatisfaction with the persistence of clones demanded by Burnet's hypothesis and I had not realized that such an important keystone as your own work had already been fabricated and ready to put into place.

I would be most welcome to you for the favor of a copy of this article together with any other papers you would have bearing on this issue. May I also ask that you send a duplicate copy to my colleague, Dr. Gus Nossal, Hall Institute; Royal Melbourne Hospital; Parkville N.2; Victoria, Australia. I might add that I am expecting Dr. Nossal to join with me for an interval at Stanford beginning next summer.

I am looking forward to the possibility of meeting you and discussing these issues at closer hand at the meetings in Paris next spring.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Medical Genetics

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